

REMARKS

The Examiner required a restriction under PCT Rule 13.1 of one of the following inventions:

Group I, claims 1-7, drawn to a method for separating a first quantity of milk drawn from a milking animal in an automatic milking machine from a second quantity of milk drawn from a milking animal.

Group II, claims 8-13, drawn to an automatic milking machine comprising means for separating a first quantity of milk drawn from a milking animal in the automatic milking machine from a second quantity of milk drawn from a milking animal in the milking machine.

In response to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute **Group I**, including claims 1-7.

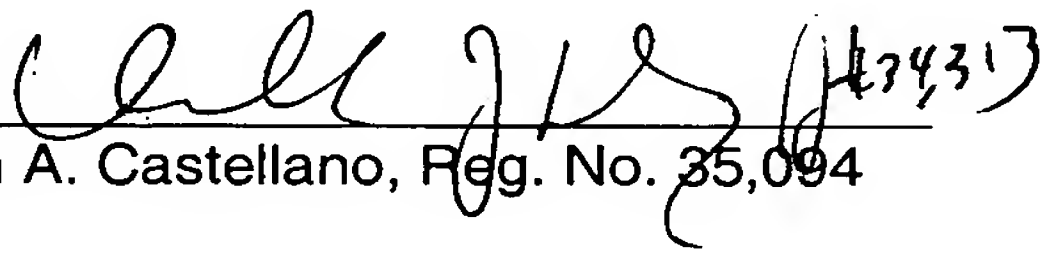
It is respectfully submitted that all claims are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner would not be unduly burdened if forced to examine Groups I and II. In other words, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner should examine the application on its merit, even though it may contain claims to distinct or independent inventions. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in this case in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expenses to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

For all of the above stated reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding Restriction Requirement and favorable allowance of all claims in the instant application are earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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